



June 10, 2014

Joint Statement from Mayor Wolcott and the Surprise City Council regarding the appointment of City Manager Bob Wingenroth

The City Council has named Bob Wingenroth as Surprise's next permanent City Manager effectively immediately. The decision to have Mr. Wingenroth start his new position right away is due to the number of time-sensitive, high-profile projects currently taking place in Surprise. These projects include establishing new citywide Village Plans, which will set the course for future development in the community, and the hiring of a new Economic Development Director and Community Development Director.

The Council had originally planned to conduct a nationwide recruitment to fill the City Manager position. But, after identifying the qualities and skills they were seeking for the city's next top administrator, it quickly became apparent the ideal candidate was already working for Surprise.

Mr. Wingenroth, who served as Surprise's Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer for the past year, has outstanding credentials and a proven record of success as a well-respected leader and financial expert in municipal government. With more than 28 years of experience with the City of Phoenix, Mr. Wingenroth also brings tremendous experience at the local level, which is highly valued by the Council.

Prior to coming to Surprise, Mr. Wingenroth worked for the City of Anaheim, Calif.; first as its Finance Director and then as its City Manager. He also served as Finance Director for the City of Huntington Beach, Calif.

Due to Mr. Wingenroth's vast municipal experience and expertise, he is highly qualified to lead Surprise as its next City Manager. In just one year with Surprise, Mr. Wingenroth has already demonstrated his ability to be a strong team-oriented leader, who understands the priorities and vision of the Council and will work hard in developing positive relationships both inside and outside the organization to realize that vision.

Just as important, Mr. Wingenroth's appointment will enable the city to make a seamless transition of the City Manager position by having a current senior-level employee assume the city's top administrative post prior to the Council going on summer recess in July.

Chris Hillman tendered his resignation on June 5 after accepting a position in Irving, Texas. Although he will no longer be serving as Surprise's City Manager, the Council is honoring Mr. Hillman's contractual notice period that will pay him his current salary through July 20.

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The Council wants to thank Mr. Hillman for his dedicated service over the past three years, which was during a critical time in the city's history. During his tenure, Mr. Hillman worked very hard in implementing Council's policy direction and financial goals that were set for the city. His management efforts resulted in bringing Surprise's budget back to fiscal health, while keeping service delivery to our citizens a top priority.

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